

SITUATION REPORT NO. 18
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: June 7, 1999 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Severe weather during June 6 resulted in tornadoes and flash flooding in McLean, Walsh and Pembina Counties, aggravating existing flood-related problems.

A tornado touchdown was reported in the town of Lankin in Walsh County on June 6. No injuries were reported, but part of a school roof was damaged. High winds damaged homes, downed power lines and trees, and destroyed shelter belts. In the rural area surrounding Lankin, two buildings at an unoccupied farmstead, as well as farm machinery, were destroyed.

Flash flooding occurred in Garrison in McLean County on June 6 after the area received approximately six inches of rain in a short period time. Rising waters caused an above ground diesel tank at a gas station to float and release diesel fuel into a cement dike area. N. D. Department of Health officials are monitoring water and sewer systems to determine if fuel leaked into nearby ditches.

A tornado also apparently struck the southern edge of the city of Mountain in Pembina County on June 6, destroying one home and two mobile homes and causing major damage to a fourth home. Several homeowners in Mountain reported damages to their roofs. In rural areas, one unoccupied and two occupied farm homes were destroyed and severe damage occurred at two other farmsteads. Utility companies have restored service after the tornado downed power lines.

Another tornado was reported to have touched down in Odessa Township of Ramsey County, uprooting up to 50 trees and damaging a township road, isolating one family. Other damages in the area include a farmyard where several grain bins and a building were destroyed. High winds caused roof damage to a barn.

Sioux County officials indicate that in addition to information previously reported about the June 3 storm, 17 homes and the Head Start School have received extensive structural damage. Hail also damaged vehicles. Utility poles were either

toppled or snapped into pieces.

During the June 3 storms, Morton County officials reported pea-sized hail, strong winds and heavy rain in the Hebron area and one inch to 2-½ diameter hail in the Fort Rice area. Hail damaged windows, siding, roofing, vehicles and farm machinery.

High water from snowmelt and heavy rainfall have eroded the east and north sides of the sewage lagoon for the city of Wildrose in Williams County. High winds are causing further erosion to the inside of the lagoon.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies continuing to contribute to storm response efforts include public works and forestry departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance, city and county commissions and administrative offices.

STATE: Staffs from N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. State Radio Communications, North Dakota Emergency Management, N.D. Department of Human Services, N.D. Department of Health and N.D. Department of Transportation also continue to monitor conditions and provide support assistance to local authorities.

FEDERAL: The NWS issued periodic storm watches and warnings to alert the public to possible hazards.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army and the American Red Cross has been providing meals and bottled water to volunteers who are assisting cleanup efforts in storm impacted areas.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Staff from the N.D. Department of Health conducted water sample testing of the city of Garrison's water and sewer systems and determined these systems were not contaminated during flooding on June 6. State health inspectors had advised a local gasoline company, who owns a diesel tank that leaked during flash flooding on June 6, to repair a leak in the tank's diking system.

Staffs for regional Human Service Centers provided assistance to North Dakotans whose homes were damaged during tornado activity.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), American Red Cross, consulting engineers, N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) staff and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director